

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing device for transmitting and receiving electronic mail over a transmission line, comprising:

a memory means for storing answer examples for a reply mail;

a contents selecting means for presenting a contents of a received mail and requiring a user to select therefrom at least one or more portions of contents of said received mail necessary for preparing a reply to the received mail;

a temporary memory means for temporarily storing said one or more portions of contents of said received mail selected by said contents selecting means;

an answer examples presenting means for presenting answer examples stored in the temporary memory means;

an answer message selecting means for requiring a user to select any of the answer examples [[stored by the memory]] presented by the answer examples presenting means; and

a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail by coupling said one or more portions stored in said temporary memory means with answer examples selected by the answer message selecting means, wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of contents of said received mail.

2. (Original) An information processing device as defined in claim 1, wherein it is further provided with a reply mail setting means for setting a sender of the received mail as an addressee of the reply mail and a receiver of the received mail as an addresser of the reply mail.

3. (Original) An information processing device as defined in any of claims 1 and 2, wherein it is further provided with a reply example preparing means for generating any kinds of answer examples and an answer example adding means for additionally storing the answer examples prepared by the reply example preparing means into the memory means.

4. (Previously Presented) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

requiring a user to select at least one or more portions of necessary contents picked from received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means and requiring the user to select one of the candidate answer examples;

storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means; and

preparing reply mail by coupling at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with the answer examples stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means, wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of said received mail.

5. (Previously Presented) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

requiring a user to select at least one or more portions of necessary contents picked from received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means and requiring said user to select one of said candidate answer examples;

storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means;

preparing reply mail by coupling at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with a contents stored in the answer storage means and storing the prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means, wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of said received mail; and

setting a sender of the received mail as an addressee of the reply mail and a receiver of the received mail as an addresser of the reply mail.

6. (Previously Presented) A storage medium carrying a program readable by a computer, which program causes the computer to execute the steps of:

displaying received mail to a user on a screen;

requiring the user to select at least one or more portions of the necessary contents from the received mail and storing the contents into a reply contents storage means;

presenting candidate answer examples previously stored in a candidate answer storage means on said screen and requiring the user to select one of the candidate answer examples as a selected candidate answer;

storing the selected candidate answer into an answer storage means; and

preparing a reply mail by associating at least one or more portions of the contents stored in the reply contents storage means with the answer examples stored in the answer storage means and storing the

prepared reply mail in a reply mail storage means, wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of said received mail.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing device for transmitting and receiving electronic mail over a transmission line, comprising:

a screen for displaying electronic mail to a user;

a memory means for storing answer examples for a reply mail;

a contents selecting means for displaying the contents of a received mail on said screen and requiring a user to select therefrom at least one or more portions of the contents of said received mail necessary for preparing a reply to the received mail;

a temporary memory means for temporarily storing said one or more portions of contents of said received mail selected by said contents selecting means;

an answer examples presenting means for presenting answer examples stored in the temporary memory means;

an answer message selecting means for requiring the user to select any of the answer examples [[stored by the memory]] presented by the answer examples presenting means as displayed on said screen; and

a reply-mail preparing means for preparing a reply mail for display on said screen by associating said one or more portions stored in said temporary memory means with answer examples selected by the answer message selecting means, wherein said reply mail includes said at least one or more portions of contents of said received mail.